

**In The Claims**

Claims 1. - 42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A fastener element for attachment to a sheet metal part, the fastener element having a body part having first and second axial ends, said first axial end having an at least substantially conical region, a generally cylindrical portion and a free end face, said conical region having a larger diameter end and a smaller diameter end, said generally cylindrical portion adjoining said larger diameter end and said free end face being provided at said generally cylindrical portion at an end thereof spaced from said conical region, said generally cylindrical portion being dimensioned to have a diameter at a position adjoining said larger diameter end that is no larger than said larger diameter end such that it does not form a ring flange at said larger diameter end, and said second axial end comprising a hollow cylindrical rivet section provided adjacent said smaller diameter end and having an internal cylindrical bore with an internal diameter, said fastener element further comprising one of a threaded shaft protruding from said second axial end in a direction away from said cylindrical rivet section and a threaded bore extending within said first axial end and having a maximum thread diameter smaller than said internal diameter.

44. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 43, wherein said conical region has a conical surface having an axial length and wherein features providing security against rotation are provided at said conical surface.

45. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 44, wherein said features providing security against rotation have the form of noses provided on said conical surface.

46. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 45, wherein said noses extend in axial planes of said fastener element.

47. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 46, wherein said noses extend at the conical surface over at least substantially said axial length of said conical surface.

48. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 44, wherein the features providing security against rotation have the form of recesses provided in the conical surface.

49. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 48, wherein said recesses are arranged in axial planes of said fastener element.

50. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 43, wherein said conical region has an enclosed cone angle ( $\alpha$ ) in the range between  $60^\circ$  and  $150^\circ$ .

48. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 50, wherein said enclosed cone angle ( $\alpha$ ) amounts to about  $90^\circ$ .

49. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 43, wherein said conical region merges via a cylindrical neck part into said cylindrical rivet section.

50. (New) A functional element in accordance with claim 43, wherein said end face of said first axial end forms a support surface for a component.

54. (New) A component assembly comprising a fastener element in combination with a sheet metal part, said fastener element comprising a body part having first and second axial ends, said first axial end having an at least substantially conical region, a generally cylindrical portion and a free end face, said conical region having a larger diameter end and a smaller

diameter end, said generally cylindrical portion adjoining said larger diameter end and said free end face being provided at said generally cylindrical portion at an end thereof spaced from said conical region, said generally cylindrical portion being dimensioned to have a diameter at a position adjoining said larger diameter end that is no larger than said larger diameter end such that it does not form a ring flange at said larger diameter end, and said second axial end comprising a hollow cylindrical rivet section provided adjacent said smaller diameter end and having an internal cylindrical bore with an internal diameter, said fastener element further comprising one of a threaded shaft protruding from said second axial end in a direction away from said cylindrical rivet section and a threaded bore extending within said first axial end and having a maximum thread diameter smaller than said internal diameter, said sheet metal part having a conical recess having an internal conical surface contacting said conical region of said fastener element at least substantially over a full area of said conical region, said conical recess having a rim at an aperture at a smaller diameter end of said conical recess, said rim being received in a ring recess formed by deformation of said cylindrical rivet section.

55. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein features providing security against rotation are provided at said conical region and sheet material of said sheet metal part in said conical recess engages in form-fitted manner with said features providing security against rotation.

56. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said sheet metal part has a thickness and said conical region has an axial length corresponding to at least approximately twice said sheet metal thickness.

57. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 56, wherein said conical region has an axial length corresponding to at least four times said sheet metal thickness.

58. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said conical region and said conical surface of said recess has an included cone angle ( $\alpha$ ) in the range between 60° and 150°.

59. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 58, wherein said included cone angle ( $\alpha$ ) amounts to approximately 90°.

60. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 56, wherein said conical region merges via a cylindrical neck part into said cylindrical rivet section and said cylindrical neck part has an axial length which corresponds at least approximately to said sheet metal thickness.

61. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said ring recess is defined at a radially outer side by displacement of material of said cylindrical rivet section (20).

62. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said ring recess is formed by beading over of said cylindrical rivet section around a rim of an aperture formed by said smaller diameter end of said conical recess of said sheet metal part.

63. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said fastener element is a bolt element having a shaft part with a thread which projects from said larger diameter end of said the conical region of said body part away from said larger diameter end.

64. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said fastener element is a bolt element having a shaft part with a thread which projects from said free end face, away from said larger diameter end of said conical region.

65. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 63, wherein a nut element is screwed onto said thread of the shaft part, said nut element having a radially extending flange with an end face facing said generally cylindrical portion and having an engagement surface for a screwing tool at an end remote from said generally cylindrical portion, there being a ring-like surface for a plunger of a setting head at a side of said flange remote from said end face of said nut element and said end face of said nut element being larger in diameter than said end face of said fastener element.